

Serial No. 10/721,179
Amtd. Dated November 16, 2004
Reply to Office Action of August 18, 2004

Docket No. K-0586

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-32 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the drawings, Abstract, specification, and claims 1-18 are amended, and claims 19-32 are added. The drawings, Abstract, and specification are amended for clarification purposes only. No new matter is added. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims, and the drawings. Withdrawal of the rejections in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 5-9 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection thereof under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and that claims 14-18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The amendments made to claim 5-9 are responsive to the Examiner's comments with respect to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. However, for the reasons set forth below, claims 5-9 and 14-18 have not been rewritten in independent form at this time.

II. Drawings

The Office Action objects to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83a, asserting that the plurality of coils provided at top and bottom points of the first and second coil arrays are not shown in the drawings. Claims 5 and 14 have been amended to recite, *inter alia*, a plurality of coils provided at upper and lower portions of each coil array. The Examiner's attention is drawn, for example, to Figure 3 of the present application, which shows a plurality of coils provided at upper and lower portions of each coil array. More specifically, first coils 61, 63, and 65 are positioned at an upper portion of the first coil array 60, and first coils 62, 64, and 66 are positioned at a lower portion of the first coil array 60. Likewise, second coils 72, 74, and 76 are positioned at an upper portion of the second coil array 70, and second coils 71, 73, and 75 are positioned at a lower portion of the second coil array 70. See also, for example, paragraph 44 of the present application.

The Office Action further asserts that the top and bottom points being on center lines of the upper and lower passages, respectively, is not shown in the drawings. Claims 6 and 15 have been amended to recite, *inter alia*, upper and lower portions lie on centerlines of the upper and lower passages, respectively. Again, the Examiner's attention is drawn, for example, to Figure 3 of the present application, which shows first and second coils 61, 63, 65, 72, 74, and 76, respectively, along what is substantially the center line of the upper passage 53a, and first and

Serial No. 10/721,179
Amdt. Dated November 16, 2004
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Docket No. K-0586

second coils 62, 64, 66, 71, 73, and 75, respectively, along what is substantially the center line of the lower passage 53b. See also, for example, paragraph 46 of the present application.

The Office Action further asserts that the drawings do not show a predetermined distance between the coils of the first coil array 60 and the coils of the second coil array 70. Again, the Examiner's attention is drawn, for example, to Figure 3 of the present application, which clearly shows the first coils 61, 63, and 65 and second coils 72, 74, and 76 at a predetermined distance from corresponding coils 71, 73, 75, 62, 64, and 66, respectively. Further, Figure 3 clearly shows coils 61, 72, 63, 74, 65, and 76 positioned at a predetermined interval in the upper passage 53a, and coils 71, 62, 73, 64, 75, and 66 positioned at a predetermined interval along the lower passage 53b. See also, for example, paragraphs 43-44 of the present application.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the drawings, especially when taken in light of the specification by one of ordinary skill in the art, meet the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.83a, and thus the objection should be withdrawn.

III. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 1-9 and 11-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The Amendments made to claims 1-9 and 11-12 are responsive to the Examiner's comments.

Serial No. 10/721,179
Amdt. Dated November 16, 2004
Reply to Office Action of August 18, 2004

Docket No. K-0586

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-9 and 11-12 meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, and thus the rejection should be withdrawn.

IV. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4 and 10-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,700,495 to Drews et al. (hereinafter “Drews”). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, independent first and second coil arrays provided in the air passage and each configured to cross the plate between the upper and lower passages. Drews neither discloses nor suggests such features, or the claimed combination of independent claim 1.

Drews discloses a clothes dryer with a heater box and element which are easily accessible from a front of the dryer to facilitate maintenance. The dryer 10 includes a drum 24 rotatably mounted in a cabinet 12, a motor 26 which rotatably drives the drum 24, a blower 29 to circulate drying air throughout the drum 24, and a heater 33 which conditions the air before it enters the drum 24. The heater 33 includes a heater box 40 with a substantially rectangular open front end 42, which transitions to a substantially circular open rear end 48.

A heater element 82 is mounted on a plate member 84, with a plurality of insulation posts 86 disposed therebetween. A heater element 82 is arranged in open figure 8 arrangement

Serial No. 10/721,179
Amdt. Dated November 16, 2004
Reply to Office Action of August 18, 2004

Docket No. K-0586

suspended by the posts 86 below the plate 84, and continues into an open figure 8 arrangement supported by the posts 86 above the plate 84 (see column 4, lines 1-9 of Drews). Openings 87 in the plate 84 increase air flow around the element 82 thus increasing efficiency of the element 82 and decreasing the likelihood of shorts (see column 4, lines 10-20 of Drews). The heater element is connected to the control circuitry of dryer 10 through electrical plug connections 98 (see column 4, lines 48-52 of Drews).

Drews clearly shows that the heater element 82 is a single, continuous coiled wire which is controlled as a single unit on both the upper and lower sides of the plate 84. Drews does not disclose or suggest independent first and second coil arrays, as recited in independent claim 1. Further, Drews clearly teaches that the element 82 is suspended from and/or mounted on the posts 86, with the openings 87 therebetween serving to simply improve air flow and preclude shorts. Drews does not disclose or suggest that any portion of the heater element 82 at any time crosses the plate 84. Thus, Drews neither discloses nor suggests independent first and second coil arrays as recited in independent claim 1, or the claimed combination.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is not anticipated by Drews, and thus the rejection of independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Drews should be withdrawn. Rejected dependent claims 2-4, and well as objected to claims 5-9 and newly added claims 19 and 20, are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

Serial No. 10/721,179
Amdt. Dated November 16, 2004
Reply to Office Action of August 18, 2004

Docket No. K-0586

Independent claim 10 recites, *inter alia*, independent first and second coil arrays provided in the air passage and configured to cross the plate between the upper and lower passages. As set forth above, Drews neither discloses nor suggests such features, or the claimed combination of independent claim 10. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 10 is not anticipated by Drews, and thus the rejection of independent claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Drews should be withdrawn. Rejected dependent claims 11-13, as well as objected to claims 14-18 and newly added claims 21-23, are allowable at least for the reasons set forth above with respect to independent claim 10, from which they depend, as well as for their added features.

V. New claims 24-32

New claims 24-32 are added to the application. It is respectfully submitted that new claims 24-32 also define over the applied prior art reference and meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

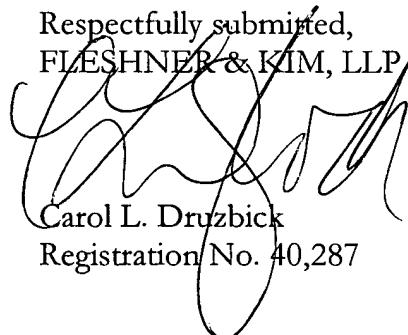
Serial No. 10/721,179
Amtd. Dated November 16, 2004
Reply to Office Action of August 18, 2004

Docket No. K-0586

VI. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, Carol L. Druzbick, at the telephone number listed below. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
FLESHNER & KIM, LLP

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Encs.: Substitute Abstract
Replacement Drawing Sheets (2)
Annotated Sheets showing changes (2)

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Serial No. 10/721,179
Amdt. Dated November 16, 2004
Reply to Office Action of August 18, 2004

Docket No. K-0586

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached drawings include changes to Figures 2-3. These sheets, which include Figures 2-3, replace the original sheets including Figures 2-3. In Figure 2, reference numbers 21 and 23 have been deleted. In Figure 3, reference number 21 has been deleted.

Attachments: Replacement Sheets (2)
Annotated Sheets Showing Changes (2)



FIG. 2

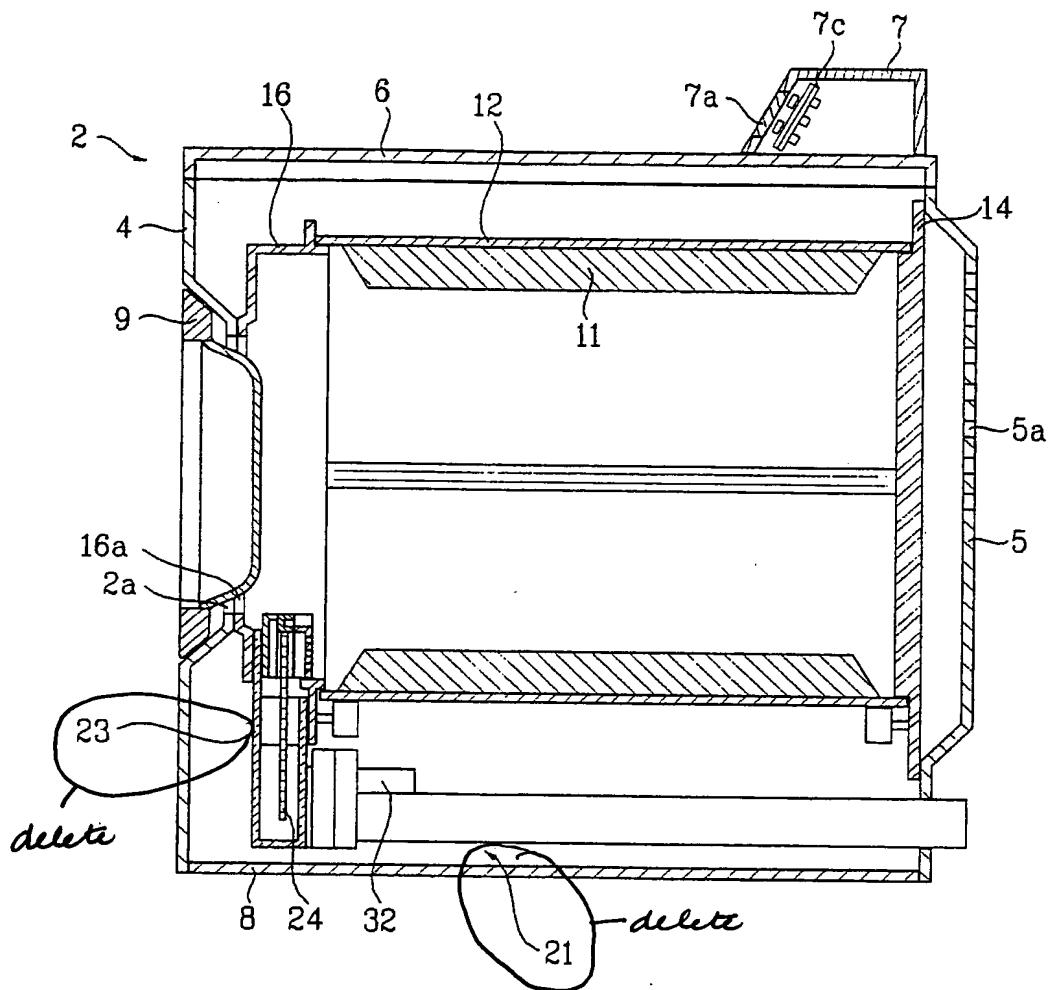




FIG. 3

